# Case 2:19-cv-21209-SDW-LDW Document 1 Filed 12/09/19 Page 1 of 14 PageID: 1 $_{\rm JS~44~(Rev.~06/17)}$ CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the

purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THE PROBLEM OF T				DEFENDANTS Comprehensive S	ecurity Se	rvices Inc			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Union County  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  Susan A. Murray, Esq Freedman & Lorry, P.C.  1601 Market St., Suite 1500, Philadelphia, PA 19103  smurray@freedmanlorry.com, (215) 931-2506				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in Or	ne Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place on "X" in	One Box f	for Plainti
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	★ 3 Federal Question  (U.S. Government Not a Party)			CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plain.  (For Diversity Cases Only)  PTF DEF tizen of This State					
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State					<b>5</b>	
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗇 3 Foreign Nation 🗇 6			□ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			l ro	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF		here for: Nature of			
CONTRACT    110 Insurance   120 Marine   130 Miller Act   140 Negotiable Instrument   150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment   151 Medicare Act   152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)   153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits   160 Stockholders' Suits   190 Other Contract   195 Contract Product Liability   196 Franchise    REAL PROPERTY   210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclosure   230 Rent Lease & Ejectment   240 Torts to Land   245 Tort Product Liability   290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY    310 Airplane   315 Airplane Product Liability   320 Assault, Libel & Slander   330 Federal Employers' Liability   340 Marine   345 Marine Product Liability   350 Motor Vehicle   355 Motor Vehicle   355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability   360 Other Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice   CIVIL RIGHTS   440 Other Civil Rights   441 Voting   442 Employment   443 Housing/ Accommodations   445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment   446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other   448 Education   448 Education   448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY  PERSONAL INJURY  Product Liability  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability  Personal Injury Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPERT  370 Other Fraud  371 Truth in Lending  380 Other Personal Property Damage  Product Liability  PRISONAL PROPERT  371 Truth in Lending  463 Alien Detainee  510 Motions to Vacate Sentence  530 General  535 Death Penalty Other:  540 Mandamus & Other  550 Civil Rights  555 Prison Condition  560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	7   62   69   69   69   69   69   69   69	DEFEITURE/PENALTY  5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881  0 Other  LABOR  D Fair Labor Standards Act D Labor/Management Relations D Railway Labor Act I Family and Medical Leave Act O Other Labor Litigation I Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION Power Management Of Other Immigration Actions	BANKRUPTCY  □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g))  FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609		OTHER STATUTES    375 False Claims Act   376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))   400 State Reapportionment   410 Antitrust   430 Banks and Banking   450 Commerce   460 Deportation   470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   480 Consumer Credit   490 Cable/Sat TV   850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange   890 Other Statutory Actions   891 Agricultural Acts   893 Environmental Matters   895 Freedom of Information Act   896 Arbitration   899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision   950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
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FREEDMAN AND LORRY, P.C.

BY: SUSAN A. MURRAY, ESQUIRE

(SM-7713)

1601 Market Street, 15th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 931-2506

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

ITPEU PENSION FUND, by and through its Board of Trustees, Co-Chairmen DENNIS ARRINGTON and JERRY BOWDEN 216 North Ave. East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. Cranford, NJ 07016

and

ITPEU ANNUAL BENEFIT FUND, by and through its Board of Trustees, Co-Chairmen DENNIS ARRINGTON and JOHN MORGAN 216 North Ave. East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. Cranford, NJ 07016

and

ITPEU HEALTH AND WELFARE FUND, by and:
Through its Board of Trustees, Co-Chairmen:
DENNIS ARRINGTON and HAROLD E.:
GELBER:
25 Chatham Center South, Suite 100:
Savannah, GA 31405:

Plaintiffs,

٧.

COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY SERVICES, INC.: 10535 E Stockton Blvd, Suite G : Elk Grove, CA 95624 :

Defendant.

### COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, by undersigned counsel, complain about Defendant as follows:

**CIVIL ACTION** 

### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under LMRA 29 U.S.C. §185(a), ERISA 29 U.S.C. §1132 and 29 U.S.C. §1145 and the pendent jurisdiction of the Court.
- 2. A copy of this Complaint has been served on the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Treasury of the United States by certified mail.

#### **VENUE**

3. Venue lies in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey under 29 U.S.C. §§ 185(a) or 1132(e)(2).

#### **PARTIES**

- 4. Plaintiff, ITPEU Pension Fund by and through its Board of Trustees, Co-Chairmen Dennis Arrington and Jerry Bowden ("Pension Fund") is a trust fund established under 29 U.S.C. § 186(c)(5) and "multiemployer plans" and "Employee benefit plans" within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1002(37), (2), and (3). Dennis Arrington and Jerry Bowden are trustees and fiduciaries with respect to the Pension Fund within the meaning of 29 U.S.C.§ 1002 (21). They are authorized to bring this action on behalf of all Trustees of the Pension Fund. The Pension Fund is administered in the District of New Jersey, at the address listed in the caption.
- 5. Plaintiff, ITPEU Annual Benefit Fund by and through its Board of Trustees, Co-Chairmen Dennis Arrington and John Morgan ("Annual Fund") is a trust fund established under 29 U.S.C. § 186(c)(5) and "multiemployer plans" and "Employee benefit plans" within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1002(37), (1), and (3). Dennis Arrington and John Morgan are trustees and fiduciaries with respect to the Annual Fund within the

meaning of 29 U.S.C.§ 1002 (21). They are authorized to bring this action on behalf of all Trustees of the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund are administered in the District of New Jersey, at the address listed in the caption.

- 6. Plaintiff, ITPEU Health and Welfare Fund by and through its Board of Trustees, Co-Chairmen Dennis Arrington and Harold E. Gelber ("Welfare Fund" hereinafter, with Plaintiffs collectively called the "Funds") is a trust fund established under 29 U.S.C. § 186(c)(5) and "multiemployer plans" and "Employee benefit plans" within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 1002(37), (1), and (3). Dennis Arrington and Harold E. Gelber are trustees and fiduciaries with respect to the Welfare Fund within the meaning of 29 U.S.C.§ 1002 (21). They are authorized to bring this action on behalf of all Trustees of the Welfare Fund. The Welfare Fund is administered at the address listed in the caption.
- 7. Defendant Comprehensive Security Services, Inc. ("Defendant" or "Employer") is an employer in an industry affecting commerce with the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§ 152 (2), (6) and (7), 1002(5), (11) and (12) with a business address as listed in the caption.

#### **FACTS**

- 8. At all times relevant to this action, the Defendant was party to a collective bargaining agreement(s) with the ITPEU, OPIEU Local 4873, AFL-CIO (singly or jointly, "Labor Contract"). A true and correct copy of the Labor Contract is hereto attached as Exhibit "1."
- 9. The Employer also signed or agreed to abide by the terms of the Declaration of Trust for each of the Funds as from time to time amended ("Trust Agreements"), creating

the Funds, made between certain employers and employee representatives in an industry affecting interstate commerce to promote stable and peaceful labor relations.

- 10. Under the Labor Contract or Trust Agreement, the Employer agreed:
  - (a) To make full and timely payments on a monthly basis to the Funds;
- (b) To file monthly remittance reports with the Funds detailing all employees or work for which contributions were required under the Labor Contract or Trust Agreement;
- (c) To produce, upon request by the Funds, all books and records deemed necessary to conduct an audit of the Employer's corporate records concerning its obligations to the Funds; and
- (d) To pay interest and liquidated damages and all costs of litigation, including attorneys' fees, expended by the Funds to collect any amounts due as a consequence of the Employer's failure to comply with its contractual obligations described in Subparagraphs (a), (b), and (c).
- 11. The Employer failed to submit contributions and remittance reports to the Pension Fund for October 2019. Based upon monthly contributions made in previous months, the Employer owes the Pension Fund an estimated amount of \$2,855.00.
- 12. The Employer paid contributions to the Pension Fund late for the months of June 2019 and July 2019 accruing interest in the amount of \$76.66 which is outstanding. Interest was calculated from the date payment of the contribution was due to the date of actual payment. An itemization of the accrued interest due to the Pension Fund is attached as Exhibit 2.

- Annual Fund for September 2019 and October 2019. On November 21, 2019, Fund Counsel sent a demand letter to the Employer on behalf of the Annual Fund. The Employer did not respond to the letter. On December 4, 2019, Fund Counsel sent a second notice demand letter to Employer on behalf of the Annual Fund. On December 6, 2019, the Annual Fund received payment for September 2019 contributions. The Employer still owes October 2019 contributions to the Annual Fund. Based upon the monthly contributions made in previous months, the Employer owes the Annual Fund an estimated amount of \$16,000.00 in contributions for October 2019, plus liquidated damages, interest for this time period, and ongoing interest. A true and correct copy of the November 21, 2019 letter is hereto attached as Exhibit 3. A true and correct copy of the December 4, 2019 letter is hereto attached as Exhibit 4.
- 14. Employer paid contributions late to the Annual Fund for the months of July 2019 and September 2019 accruing interest in the amount of \$1,404.50 which is outstanding. Interest was calculated from the date payment of the contribution was due to the date of actual payment. A true and correct copy of the interest letter sent to the Employer is hereto attached as Exhibit 5.
- 15. The Employer failed to submit contributions and remittance reports to the Welfare Fund for September 2019 and October 2019. On November 20, 2019, Fund Counsel sent a demand letter to the Employer on behalf of the Welfare Fund. On November 21, 2019, the Welfare Fund received payment of September 2019 contributions from Employer. The Employer still owes October 2019 contributions to the Welfare Fund. Based upon monthly contributions made in previous months, the Employer owes the

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Welfare Fund an estimated amount of \$13,567.20 in contributions for October 2019, plus liquidated damages, interest for this time period, and ongoing interest. A true and correct copy of the November 20, 2019 letter is hereto attached as Exhibit 6.

- 16. Employer paid contributions late to the Welfare Fund for the months of August 2018, September 2018, October 2018, November 2018, May 2019, and June 2019 accruing interest in the amount of \$647.41 which is outstanding. Interest was calculated from the date payment of the contribution was due to the date of actual payment. True and correct copies of the interest letters sent to the Employer from the Fund are hereto attached as Exhibit 7.
- 17. Contributing employers to the Funds submit contributions and remittance reports on a self-reporting basis.
- 18. As part of their fiduciary duties under ERISA, the Trustees are required to conduct periodic examinations of payroll records of contributing employers in order to determine whether such employers are making all required contributions.
- 19. On March 29, 2017, Fund Counsel sent the Employer a letter notifying the Employer that it had been selected by the Trustees for an examination of its payroll records for the period of January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017 that would be conducted by Howard, Moore, & McDuffie, P.C. A true and correct copy of the March 29, 2017 letter is hereto attached as Exhibit 8.
- 20. On November 19, 2019, Fund Counsel received an email from April Hornsby at Howard, Moore, & McDuffie, P.C. stating that Employer had not provided all of the requested and necessary records to complete the audit, despite numerous requests.

- 21. In the email, Ms. Hornsby indicated that Employer was initially compliant with the payroll examination. However, recently, the Employer's payroll contact for the audit has not responded to the auditor's inquiry emails or phone calls. The receptionist at the Employer's office has indicated to the auditor that the payroll contact still works for the Employer and is still the person to speak with regarding the payroll audit. A true and correct copy of the November 19, 2019 email is hereto attached as Exhibit 9.
- 22. On November 20, 2019, Fund Counsel sent a letter to the Employer requesting compliance with the payroll compliance audit. As of the date of the filing of this complaint, the Employer has not responded to the letter. A true and correct copy of the November 20, 2019 letter is hereto attached as Exhibit 10.

# COUNT I CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER CONTRACT – SUM CERTAIN

- 23. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 22 are incorporated by reference as if fully restated.
- 24. The Employer owes the Pension Fund an estimated amount of at least \$2,855.00, due under the Labor Contract in contributions. This estimate is based upon the average monthly contribution amount.
- 25. The Employer owes the Pension Fund the sum of \$76.66 in interest for the months of June 2019 and July 2019.
- 26. The Employer owes the Annual Fund an estimated amount of at least \$16,000.00, due under the Labor Contract in contributions. This estimated amount is based upon the average monthly contribution amount.
- 27. The Employer owes the Annual Fund the sum of \$1,404.50 in interest for the months of July 2019 and September 2019.

- 28. The Employer owes the Welfare Fund an estimated amount of at least \$13,567.20, due under the Labor Contract in contributions. This estimate is based upon the average monthly contribution amount.
- 29. The Employer owes the Welfare fund the sum of \$647.41 in interest demanded but not paid for the late payments of contributions for the months of August 2018, September 2018, October 2018, November 2018, May 2019, and June 2019.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs ask that the Court:

- (1) Enter judgment against the Employer and in favor of the Pension Fund for at least \$2,931.66 for the above stated contribution and interest, in favor of the Annual Fund for at least \$17,404.50 for the above stated contribution and interest, and in favor of the Welfare Fund for at least \$14,214.61 for the above stated contribution and interest, plus any delinquencies incurred during the pendency of this action, together with liquidated damages, interest and costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action or the collection or enforcement of any judgment as provided in the Labor Contract or Trust Agreement.
- (2) Grant such other or further relief, legal or equitable, as may be just, necessary or appropriate.

# COUNT II CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER ERISA – SUM CERTAIN

- 30. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 29 are incorporated by reference as if fully restated.
- 31. The Employer has failed to pay contributions to the Funds in violation of 29 U.S.C. §1145.

32. The Employer owes the Pension Fund at least the sum of \$2,855.00 as well as the Annual Fund at least the sum of \$16,000.00 and the Welfare Fund at least the sum of \$13,567.20 in contributions plus interest and liquidated damages due under the Labor Contract. This estimate is based upon the average monthly contribution amount. In addition, Employer has failed to submit remittance reports in violation of the labor contract and trust agreements.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs ask that the Court:

- (1) Enter judgment against the Employer and in favor of the Pension Fund for at least \$2,855.00 in contributions, in favor of the Annual Fund at least the sum of \$16,000.00, and in favor of the Welfare Fund for at least \$13,567.20 in contributions plus any additional contributions incurred during the pendency of this action, together with interest, liquidated damages provided by the documents governing the Funds or ERISA 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2) and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action or the collection or enforcement of any judgment.
- (2) Grant such other or further relief, legal or equitable, as may be just, necessary, or appropriate.

### COUNT III AUDIT

- 33. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 32 are incorporated by reference as if fully restated.
- 34. The Employer is obligated to permit the Funds to audit the Employer's records and to cooperate in determining the contributions due the Funds.

- 35. The amount of contributions the Employer is required to pay to the Funds is based upon hours worked and wages paid to employees performing work covered by the Labor Contract.
- 36. Contributing employers to the Funds submit contributions and remittance reports on a self-reporting basis.
- 37. Computation of the precise amount of an employer's delinquency is normally achieved by an audit of the employer's books and records and/or calculated from contractually required remittance reports submitted by the employer.
- 38. As part of their fiduciary duties under ERISA, the Trustees are required to conduct periodic examinations of payroll records of contributing employers in order to determine whether such employers are making all required contributions.
- 39. The Funds are without sufficient information or knowledge to plead the precise nature, extent and amount of the Employer's delinquency since the books, records and information necessary to determine this liability are in the exclusive possession, custody and control or knowledge of the Employer.
- 40. In addition, the Employer failed to provide the requested documents necessary to complete the audit for the period of January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017.
- 41. The Employer is required by the Labor Contract, Trust Agreements or applicable law to permit the Funds to audit its records and to cooperate in determining the contributions due the Funds.
- 42. The Funds are seeking a compliance audit for the period of January 1, 2014 to the present due to the Employer's failure to cooperation with the compliance audit for the period of January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017 and its current delinquency.

- 43. This audit is even more important because the Employer is no longer contracted with the Funds as of November 1, 2019 and the Funds need to close out the Employer's file.
- 44. The Funds have no adequate remedy at law for the calculation of any damages suffered as a result of the Employer's failure to cooperate.
  - 45. All conditions precedent to equitable relief have been satisfied.

#### WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs ask that the Court:

- (a) Enjoin the Employer, the Employer's officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys and all others in active concert or participation with it to permit an audit of <u>all</u> records under the actual or constructive control of the Employer and, in the absence of records, to cooperate in alternative methods for the determination of work for which contributions are due; and
- (b) After completion of the audit, enter judgment against the Employer in favor of the Funds for the amount of contributions found due and owing by the audit together with liquidated damages, interest and costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action or the collection and enforcement of any judgment, as provided in the Labor Contract or Trust Agreements and the statute; and
- (c) Grant such other or further relief, legal or equitable, as is just, necessary or appropriate.

# COUNT IV CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER CONTRACT AFTER AUDIT

46. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 45 are incorporated by reference as if fully restated.

- 47. On information and belief, the Employer has failed to make contributions to the Funds as required by its Labor Contract or Trust Agreements in a period not barred by any applicable statute of limitations or similar bar.
- 48. On information and belief, the Funds have been damaged by the failure of the Employer to make contributions as required by its Labor Contract or Trust Agreements.

#### WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs ask that the Court:

- (a) After an audit, enter judgment against the Employer in favor of the Funds for the amount of contributions found due and owing by an audit together with liquidated damages, interest and costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action or the collection and enforcement of any judgment, as provided in the Labor Contract or Trust Agreements.
- (b) Grant such other or further relief, legal or equitable, as may be just, necessary or appropriate.

### COUNT V CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER ERISA AFTER AUDIT

- 49. The allegations of Paragraph 1 through 48 are incorporated by reference as if fully restated.
- 50. On information and belief, the Employer has failed to make contributions to the Funds in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 1145 in a period not barred by an applicable statute of limitations or similar bar.
- 51. In addition, Employer has failed to submit all requested payroll records to the Plaintiffs to perform a payroll compliance audit. Employer lost the contract with the federal government at the Ronald Reagan Library to perform security services effective October 31, 2019. The Plaintiffs seek to enforce their right to a payroll compliance audit

as part of their fiduciary duty to confirm that all outstanding amounts were paid in the

earlier part of the contract. In addition, the Plaintiffs need to provide benefit credits to the

Comprehensive Security's employees for October 2019 in that the Employer failed to

submit remittance reports containing that information.

52. On information and belief, the Funds have been damaged by the Employer's

violation of 29 U.S.C. §1145.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs ask that the Court:

(a) After an audit, enter judgment against the Employer in favor of the Funds

for contributions found due and owing by the audit, together with interest at the rate

prescribed by 26 U.S.C. §6621 from the due date for payment until the date of actual

payment, liquidated damages equal to the greater of the interest on the unpaid contributions

or liquidated damages provided by the plan document or statute and reasonable attorneys'

fees and costs incurred in this action and in connection with any proceedings to enforce or

collect any judgment.

(b) Grant such other or further relief, legal or equitable, as may be just,

necessary or appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

FREEDMAN AND LORRY, P.C.

BY:

SUSAN A. MURRAY, ESQUIRE

Sum A Munia

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Date: December 9, 2019

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